THE PETITION

Of the Gentry, Miniſters, and Commonalty of the County of

KENT.

Agreed upon the Generall Aſſizes laſt holden for that County.

The Copie of which Petition being delivered to Judge *Mallet* (who was for that Circuit) and afterwards to the Earle of *Briſtoll*.

VVhich Petition being concealed from the Parliament by the Earle of *Briſtoll* and the ſaid Iudge *Mallet*, was for the ſame both committed to the Tower, *March* 28. 1642.

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To the Honourable Houſe of Commons Aſſembled in PARLIAMENT.

The Humble Petition of the Gentry, Miniſters, and Commonnalty of the County of Kent, agreed upon, at the geneerall Aſſizes of the County.

Moſt humbly ſheweth,

THat wee cannot but take notice, how welcome to this Honorable Houſe, many Petitions have beene, which yet came not from an Aſſembled body of any County (as this doth) we do therefore hope to finde as gentle and favourable a reception of this as any other have found of their Petitions, our hearts witneſſing unto us, as good, peaceable, and pious purpoſes as the beſt.

Theſe are therefore the true and Ardent deſires of this County.

1. That you will be pleaſed to accept our due and

hearty thanks for those excellent Laws (which by his Majesties grace & goodnes) you have obtained for us.

2. That all Laws against Papists, be put in due execu ion, and an accompt taken of their disarming, and that all Children of the Papists, may be brought up in the reformed Religion.

3. That the Solemne *Litturgy* of the Church of *England* (Celebrious by the piety of the Bishops and Martyrs who composed it) establisht by the supream Laws of this Land, attested and approved by the best of all Forraigne Divines, confirmed by the suscription of all the Ministry of this Land, A Cleargy as able and Learned as any in the Christian world ere injoyed, and with a holy love embraced by the most and best of all the Laity, that this holy exercise of Religion may by your Authority be injoyed quiet and free from interruptions, scornes, prophanenes, threats and force of such men, who dayly do deprave it, and neglect the use of it in divers Churches, in despight of the Laws established.

4. That Episcopall Government, as Ancient in this Iland as Christianity it selfe, deduced and dispersed throughout the Christian world, even from the Apostolicall times, may be preserved (as the most pious most prudent, and most safe Government) for the peace of the Church.

5. That all differences concerning Religion and Ceremonies, may be referred to a Lawfull, free, and Nationall Synod, as your Remonstrance promiseth, to a generall Synod of most grave, learned, pious and Iudicious Divines, (the proper Agents) whose interests, gifts, and callings, may quicken them in that gret Worke, whose choyce to be by all the Cleargy

of

of the Land, becauſe all the Cleargy are to be bound by their Reſolutions, and the determination of this Synod to bind us all, when you have firſt formed them into a Law, and this we take to be according to the ancient and fundamentall Law of this Land, confirmed by *Magna Charta*.

6. That ſome ſpeedy and good proviſion may be made (as by his Majeſty hath been and is by all good men deſired) againſt the odious and abominable ſcandall of ſchiſmatical and ſeditious Sermons and Pamphlets, and ſome ſevere Law made againſt Lay men, for daring to arrogate to themſelves & to execute the holy function of the Miniſtry, who (ſome of them) do ſow their impious and diſcontented Doctrin even in Sacred places, by abuſe of Sacred Ordinances, to the advancing of Hereſie, Schiſme, Profaneneſſe, Libertiniſme, Anabaptiſme, and Atheiſme.

7. That if the coertive power of Eccleſiaſticall Courts by way of Excommunication bee already abrogated, or ſhal be thought fit ſo to be, that there be ſome other power and authority ſpeedily eſtabliſhed, for ſuppreſſing the heynous and now ſo much abounding ſins of Inceſt, Adultery, and Fornication, and other crimes, and for recovering Tythes, repairing of Churches, Probate of Wills, Church aſſeſſes, providing bread and Wine for the Communion, & choice of Church-wardens, and other officers in the Church and eſpecially for Miniſters, who neglect the Celebrating of the Holy Communion, and the Pariſhioners for not receiving.

8. That the Profeſſors of that Learned faculty of the Civill Law, and (without which this Kingdome cannot but ſuffer manifold inconveniences) may not find diſcouragements, and ſo divert their Studies and Profeſſions.

9. That

9. That honour and profits the powerful encouragements of industry, Learning, and Piety, may be preserved without further dimination to the Clergy.

10. That you please sadly to consider the bleeding wounds of our Brethren in *Ireland*, and with speedy succours endeavour to preserve them, whereunto his Majesty hath promised a gracious concurrence.

11. That you please to frame an especiall Law for the Regulating of the *Militia* of this Kingdome, so that the Subject may know how at once to obey both his Majesty and both Houses of Parliament, a Law whereby may be left to the discretion of Governors, as little as may be, but that the number of Armes and what measure of punishment shall be inflicted upon the offendors, may be expresly set down in the Act, and not left to any Arbitrary power, and that according to the president of former Lawes the offendors may not be tryed out of the County.

12. That the Precious Liberty of the Subject (the common birth right of every *Englishman*) may be as in all these points preserved entire, so in this also, that no order of either of both Houses not grounded on the Lawes of this Land, may be enforced on the Subject, till it be fully enacted by parliament.

13. That his Majesties gracious Message of the 20. of *Ian.* last, for the present and future establishment of the Priviledges of Parliament, the free enjoying of our estates and Fortunes, the liberty of our persons, the security of the true Religion professed, the maintaining of his Majesties Iust and Regall Authority, the establishing his Revenue, may be taken into speedy consideration, the effecting whereof wil satisfie the desires of all us, his faithfull and loving Subjects,

14. That

14. That all possible care may be taken, that the Native Commodities of this Kingdome, may have a quicke vent, and that Cloathing, and other Manufactures may be improved, wherein the livelyhood of many thousands do consist, and that Trade may bee ballanced, that the importation do not exceed the exportation, otherwise it will prove a consumption of the Land.

15. That you please to frame some Lawes concerning Depopulations, Purveyances, Cart-taking, delayes in Iustice, Trafficke, Fishing in the Coasts, Fulling earth, that out Sea Forts may be repaired, and our Magazins renewed.

16. That you please to consider the generall poverty that seemes to overgrow this Kingdome.

17. Lastly, We humbly beseech you to consider the sad condition, that we and the whole Land are in, if a good understanding be not speedily renued between his Majesty and both houses of Parliament.

Our hopes are yet above our feares, secure them we beseech you, God direct and guide your consultations for the removing of all distrusts and Iealousies, for the renewing that tye of confidence and trust, (which is the highest happines) between our gracious Prince, and his loving Subjects.

And you shall have the dayly prayers of your humble Orators of the Commonalty of Kent.

To meete at *Blacke Heath* the 29. of *April*, by 9. of the Clocke at the furtheſt to accompany this Pettion to the Parliament. 1642.

FINIS.